

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/666,722

Applicant(s)

TANAKA ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Daniel R. Sellers

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 12/18/06.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 22-33.

3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

5. Notice of Informal Patent Application

2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),

Paper No./Mail Date _____.

3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment

4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 22-33 are allowed.
2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claim 22 recites, in part, "means for placing bit length information representative of an effective bit length of a segment of the PCM data digital audio signal at a position adjacently preceding the segment of the PCM digital audio signal as an identifier for the segment of the PCM digital audio signal in the real-data recording area." The prior art of record, specifically Heo, teaches placing bit length information at a position preceding a packet of audio data, which is not the same as placing this information at a position preceding a segment, or a sample, of audio data. Heo teaches this structure in figure 14 and column 16, lines 20-27, wherein the audio data is composed of many segments of PCM digital audio data. Whereas the claimed invention claims a structure as shown in figure 20 of the specification. Heo does not anticipate or make obvious this structure. Likewise, the prior art of record does not anticipate or make obvious this structure.

Claims 23, 28, and 29 are allowed because they depend on allowable claim 22.

Claim 24 is allowed for similar reasons as claim 22. The same structure is claimed, and it is not anticipated or made obvious by the prior art of record.

Claims 25, 30, and 31 are allowed because they depend on allowable claim 24.

Claim 26 is allowed for similar reasons as claim 22. The same structure is claimed, and it is not anticipated or made obvious by the prior art of record.

Claims 27, 32, and 33 are allowed because they depend on allowable claim 26.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel R. Sellers whose telephone number is 571-272-7528. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 9am to 5:30pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on (571)272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



SINH TRAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DRS